SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REALLOCATING AND/OR UPGRADING AND/OR SELLING TICKETS, OTHER EVENT ADMITTANCE MEANS, GOODS AND/OR SERVICES

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part application of, and claims priority to, U.S. application Ser. No. 09/910,821 filed on Jul. 24, 2001 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,031,945, and entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REALLOCATING AND/OR UPGRADING AND/OR REWARDING TICKETS, OTHER EVENT ADMITTANCE MEANS, GOODS AND/OR SERVICES," which in turn claims priority to both U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/220,218 filed on Jul. 24, 2000 and entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REALLOCATING AND/OR UPGRADING TICKETS OR OTHER EVENT ADMITTANCE MEANS", and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/226,594 filed on Aug. 21, 2000 and entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REALLOCATING AND/OR UPGRADING TICKETS OR OTHER EVENT ADMITTANCE MEANS", and the details of all the above applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to purchasing and provisioning items or services online for reallocating and/or upgrading and/or rewarding tickets and/or other goods/services, and more particularly, to a system, method, and computer readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for upgrading, reallocating, purchasing, and/or being rewarded items or services including event tickets, concessions, and/or merchandise over a data communication network and provisioning these purchases for, for example, reallocating and/or upgrading tickets.

Provisioning, as defined herein, includes in whole or in part, the process of effectuating and/or facilitating the processing of a transaction, including, for example, the sale and/or transfer and/or reallocation of tickets, goods, services, and the like, for movies, theatre, shows, sporting events, cultural events, and other non-event related purchases, services, and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

U.S. Pat. No. 6,052,629 to Leatherman et al. (Leatherman), incorporated herein by reference, is directed to an Internet capable browser dispenser architecture. As shown in prior art FIG. **1** (FIG. 1 of Leatherman), the system of Leatherman includes a plurality of fuel dispensers **12**, each having at least two fueling positions and acting as a point of sale (POS) interface. Connected to the fuel dispensers **12** is a main service station store **16**, a local server **18**, a convenience store **20**, a number of restaurants **22**, and a car wash **24**, as well as other remote servers **26** via the Internet. Basically, the system of Leatherman provides gas station customers with access to a server on a local network and remote sites via the Internet. With this arrangement, the gas station customers may purchase services at the POS dispensers and be subject to advertisements transmitted thereto. However, while Leatherman discusses purchasing items at a gas station, it makes no disclosure of effectively provisioning and/or performing transactions in the entertainment and/or ticketing industry.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,618,045 to Kagan et al. (Kagen), incorporated herein by reference, relates to an interactive game system. As depicted in prior art FIG. **2** (FIG. 1 of Kagen), the interactive game system **610** of Kagen includes three playing devices **612**, **614**, and **616**, which communicate via a wireless local area network. Communication is effected utilizing short-range radio, infrared, or ultra-sonic signals. As shown in prior art FIG. **3** (FIG. 2 of Kagen), each playing device includes a processor **718**, an interface **720**, a transmitter **722**, a receiver **724** and a display **726**. Using these components, a player's actions are transmitted to and received by another player's playing device.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,636,920 to Shur et al. (Shur), incorporated herein by reference, relates to a sports team organizer. In prior art FIG. **4** (FIG. 1 of Shur), a portable computing device for organizing a sports team includes an input device **812**, a processor **814**, a memory **816**, a number of stored programs **818**, and an output device **820**. With these elements, the organizing system allows a team roster, a starting lineup, and a number of drills to be generated.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,647,795 to Stanton (Stanton), incorporated herein by reference, relates to portable computerized pari-mutuel sports entertainment system. In prior art FIG. **5** (FIG. 1 of Stanton), the system includes a computer **911** and conductor **916**, a video cassette recorder **912** with video tape **917**, a television set **913**, keypads **914**, and printers **915**. The computer **911** operates as a main computing server, and includes a motherboard **920**, a memory card **921**, and a number of graphics and other serial cards **922**, **923**, and **924**. With this system, bets are entered from remote locations with keypads **914** and stored in computer **911**. After a race, winnings are collected at the cashiers' windows (keypads **914**).

The above cited patents are relevant from the perspective that wireless devices are gaining more popularity in today's society.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,794,207 to Walker et al. (Walker), incorporated herein by reference, relates to a method and apparatus for a cryptographically assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate buyer-driven conditional purchase offers. In prior art FIG. **6** (FIG. 1 of Walker), the system includes seller interfaces **300**, central controller **200**, and buyer node **400**. A number of modems **350** and **450** facilitate connection to central controller **200**. Using these components, a buyer communicates a binding purchase offer to a number of sellers. In response, the sellers have the option to accept a purchase offer and thus bind the corresponding buyer to a contract. Nevertheless, Walker makes no mention of allowing redemption of the purchases at a point of sale location upon identification or verification of the purchaser or of the purchase.

FIGS. **7**–**9** show a prior art radio frequency (RF) transmission system **100**, as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,819,172, incorporated herein by reference, for transmitting information from one of a plurality of originating processors A–N to at least one of a plurality of destination processors (A–N) which may be transported during operation. The system **100** includes at least one gateway switch **150** that stores information received from one of the at least one originating processor prior to transmission of the information to the at least one destination processor; a RF information transmission network **130** for transmitting stored information received from one of the at least one gateway switch **150** by RF transmission to at least one destination processor; and at least one interface switch **162** that connects a gateway switch **150** to the RF transmission network **100** and trans-